



**Galway City Community Network**  
Líonra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe



# **Galway City Community Network The Public Participation Network in Galway City**

## **Plenary Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**FÁILTE/WELCOME**

# Agenda

## Part one

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes and Matters Arising

Progress Report

Reps Reports

GCCN Representative Elections – outline of process

Proposed Motion

## Part two

Meeting with Galway City Councillors – based on the #EqualityVotesGalway campaign



# Minutes of March Plenary/AGM

## Ratification of decisions - March Plenary



**MINUTES**



**MATTERS ARISING**

# Progress

## ▶ Linkage Groups continuing to meet and follow-up work

### ▶ Environment LG

- ▶ Wrote to GCC on Canal and other work - Proposal to establish a Waterways Forum
- ▶ Wrote to GCC on lack of collaboration in the Urban Regen Fund applications

### ▶ LCDC – wrote to DRCD in relation to lack of progress on the review of the LECP

### ▶ Housing Linkage Group – wrote to GCC to request an update on the outcomes of the Homelessness Conference

## ▶ Evolve (Galway Community Excellence Network) – GCCN actively participate on Steering Group

## ▶ Access for All – GCCN continue to support members participating in Linkage groups and Committees/ delivery of training around GCCN structures on July 2<sup>nd</sup>

## ▶ Galway Age Friendly Alliance – GCCN member of working groups on Civic Participation & Inclusion

## ▶ Local Community Development Committee – Participating in the development of Equality and Human Rights tools as part of the initiative funded by the Irish Human rights & Equality Commission

## ▶ Healthy Galway – launch of the Healthy Galway Strategic Plan

## ▶ Galway Environmental Network

## ▶ Galway 2020 – GCCN sat on The Small Town Big Ideas assessment panel

## ▶ GCCN facilitated two Community Enhancement Programme Information Sessions with **GCC** and **GCP**

## ▶ Magdalene Women Commemoration – GCCN co-organised and held on March 31<sup>st</sup>



Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in  
Bohermore Cemetery

Stories: Sono & Poetry



# #EqualityVotesGalway

A range of local organisations including GCCN, GCP, GTM, Amach LGBTI+, Cope Galway, the Bridge Project, DFI, Access for All and GARN are working collaboratively to ensure that *equality is at the heart of local representation.*

## **To date:**

- ▶ Equality based Manifesto developed
- ▶ Hustings held prior to the Local Elections
- ▶ Candidates signed a pledge based on the Manifesto
- ▶ Elected Councillors invited to Plenary: address priorities for their term in relation to Equality

## **Future:**

- ▶ GCCN will take up identified areas of manifesto in LGs and SPCs

**#EVG**

#EqualityVotesGalway

# GCCN submissions since March



National Volunteer  
Strategy



PPN Users Guide

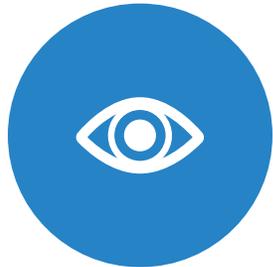


Social Enterprise  
Policy



GCCN Submission  
on Traveller  
Inclusion

# Communications



Enhancing member's visibility by showcasing groups monthly on the GCCN website



Optimising the GCCN website:

- \* user friendly
- \* visual appearance



Improving communications with all members through Newsletter and Feedback



Social Media – last week:

- \* 1,068 Twitter impressions
- \* 224 Facebook post reach

# GCCN Representatives Reports

- ▶ **LCDC** – Terry McDonough & Marian Maloney
- ▶ **Planning SPC** – Derrick Hambleton
- ▶ **Transport SPC** – Derrick Hambleton
- ▶ **Environment, Recreation and Amenity SPC** – Brendan Smith, Caroline Stanley & Eleanor Hough
- ▶ Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Culture SPC –
- ▶ **Child Care Committee** – Marian Maloney
- ▶ **Galway City Partnership** - Brendan Mulligan, Maria Molloy, Tommy Flaherty,
- ▶ **Joint Policing Committee** – Vacancy
- ▶ **Sports Partnership** –
- ▶ **Alcohol Forum** –
- ▶ **Housing SPC** – Karina Timothy
- ▶ **Western Drugs Task Force** – Tommy Flaherty
- ▶ **Comhairle na nÓg** - Vacancy



# GCCCN Reps Reports

# Local Community Development Committee

- ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:
  - 2
- ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:
  - Still attempting to organize a review of the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:
  - The importance of the review and the preparation of a new 6 year plan during 2020
- ▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:
  - Following the local elections Cllr. Martina O'Connor and Cllr. Owen Hanley are now LCDC members.
  - We will have to reselect some of our representatives.
- ▶ Upcoming Meetings:
  - July and September

# Galway City Partnership

▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:

- 6

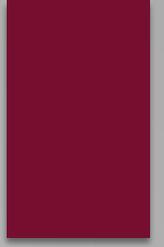
▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:

- The Board of GCP continue to oversee the SICAP programme along with other areas of work.
- GCCN reps continue to actively involve themselves with the work of the GCP. Three GCCN reps are also on the operational sub group.

▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:

- The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection is proposing to replace the community-based Local Employment Service (LES, set up 1995) and Jobs Clubs in order to initiate competitive procurement for future services.
- This is causing some uncertainty for Galway City Partnership.
- The Irish Local Development Network argues that the future of employment services in Ireland is best served by their reconfiguration within a not-for-profit model

# Western Drugs Task Force



- ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:
  - 9th April 2019
- ▶ Upcoming SPCs:
  - 25th June 2019
- ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:
  - How we engage with the new strategy and encourage our membership to engage with the new strategy.
- ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:
  - Brief recap on success and challenges of the last strategy
  - Discussion on date collection
  - Consultation on new strategy
  - Preliminary discussion on priorities for the new strategy
  - Planning for September event

# Planning SPC

- ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:
  - 30th April 2019
- ▶ Upcoming SPCs:
  - No dates yet from new Council.
- ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:
  - Report on Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy & Due Diligence Report on Harbour Lands Transfer Plan. Not yet ready. Expected in Q4 we were told.
- ▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:
  - The changing emphasis is now on Climate and how this issue is to be progressed by this committee, which until now has avoided any debate on these issues as they effect future planning, preferring to stick to single issues of minutiae.
- ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:
  - The total emphasis now should be on relating all planning issues to their impacts on climate.

# Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC

## ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

## ▶ Upcoming SPCs:

- September 2019

## ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:

- Climate adaptation draft strategy to put out for public consultation
- Draft Busking Laws to go before council ,no changes
- Management plans for Terryland and Merlin Park
- Recreational and Amenity study review List of policies to be looked at over the next SPCs
- It was announced at the May SPC meeting that: a Tree Officer would be appointed over the summer;
- that the multi-sectoral Terryland Forest steering committee would be reconvened in the next few months; that a Climate Change Strategy would be opened for public consultation in June; that a new position of assistant Parks' Superintendent would soon be advertised; that the all-Ireland Pollinator Plan would be taken onboard; and that it was the council's management belief that the city' first Biodiversity Officership would follow in 2020.

## ▶ Any support required from the GCCN membership:

- Discussion with various sporting groups / buskers

## ▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:

- Draft Street Performance and Busking Bye-Laws
- Recreational and Amenity study consultations
- Reinstatement of the Cash-for-Cans scheme
- Public consultation on Climate Change Strategy for Galway city
- That the promised council parks' positions would be filled by council
- That the promised environmental policies promised in May would be honoured
- That the National Park City for Galway committee and strategy will be up and running by September

## ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:

- Councillors to be contacted re Busking Bye Laws
- Recreational and amenity studies review with biodiversity and climate change in mind plus also the use of astro turf
- Waterways strategy

# Childcare Committee

- ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:
  - 9th April 2019
- ▶ Upcoming SPCs:
  - Meeting for 19th June cancelled – AGM. New one to be scheduled
- ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:
  - GCCN rep met with Childcare Committee Chair and Manager to look at remit & expectations.
  - Areas covered included Reps role in highlighting needs of GCCN target groups and information sharing
- ▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:
  - Galway City and County Childcare Committee looking at ways that information can best be shared with GCCN e.g. development of a template etc. to be put on web-site with relevant info, dates
- ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:
  - Are there any issues that member organisations would like rep to bring to next Child Care Committee
- ▶ Any support required from the GCCN membership:
  - Any member organisations have any specific issues around social inclusion to contact rep specifically around issues

# Housing SPC

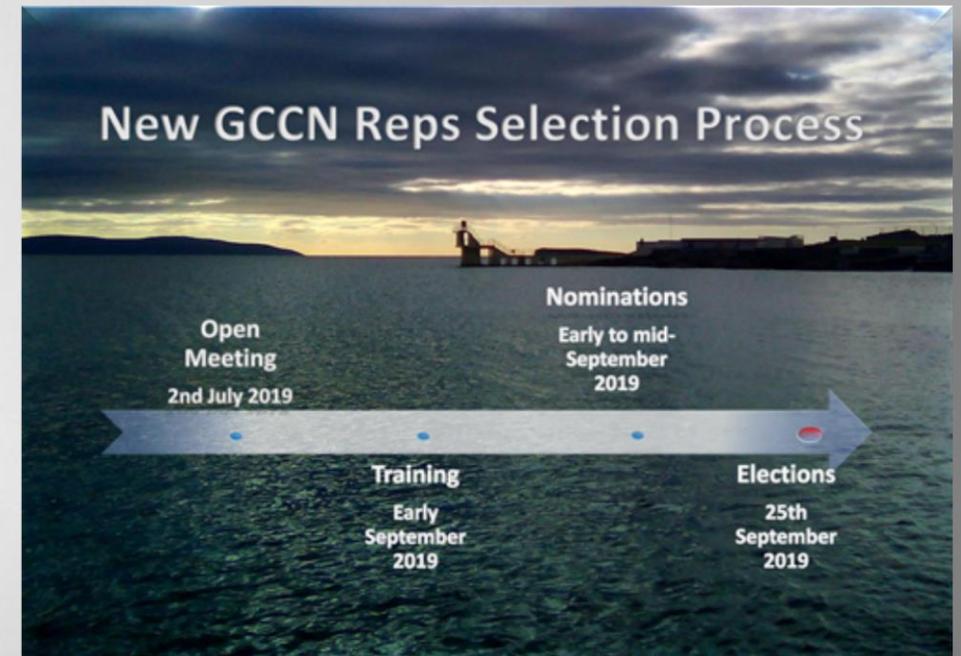
- ▶ Meetings attended since last Plenary:
  - 2nd May 2019
- ▶ Upcoming SPCs:
  - N/A
- ▶ Key issues dealt with since last Plenary:
  - Letter from GCCN sent to GCC Housing SPC re: recommendations from GCCN housing conference on 29/04/19
- ▶ Upcoming issues/information to flag to Plenary:
  - New council and mayor elected since last Plenary. Meeting with Councillors.
- ▶ Any questions of strategy for Plenary to consider:
  - N/A
- ▶ Any support required from the GCCN membership:
  - N/A

# GCCN Representative Elections: outline of process

Following the New Council Elections all GCCN reps on structures associated with the Local Authority will need to resign.

The GCCN representative selection process will include:

- ▶ **Curry and Conversations:** an open meeting on GCCN Representation will be held on 2nd July in the Westside Resource Center for any GCCN member that has ever thought of being a rep
- ▶ **Training on the Role of GCCN Reps** will be offered in early September to all interested GCCN members
- ▶ **Nominations** for interested candidates will be open from early to mid-September
- ▶ **GCCN Reps Elections** will take place during the Plenary Meeting on 25th September.



# GCCN Proposed Motion



It is proposed that all current GCCN Representatives remain in place until the Elections for New GCCN Reps that will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Plenary meeting.

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# Meting with Galway City Councillors



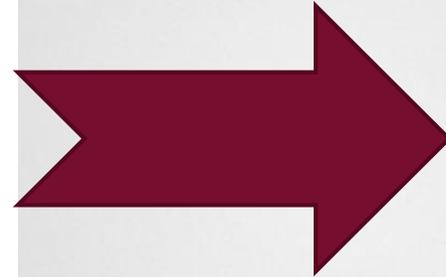
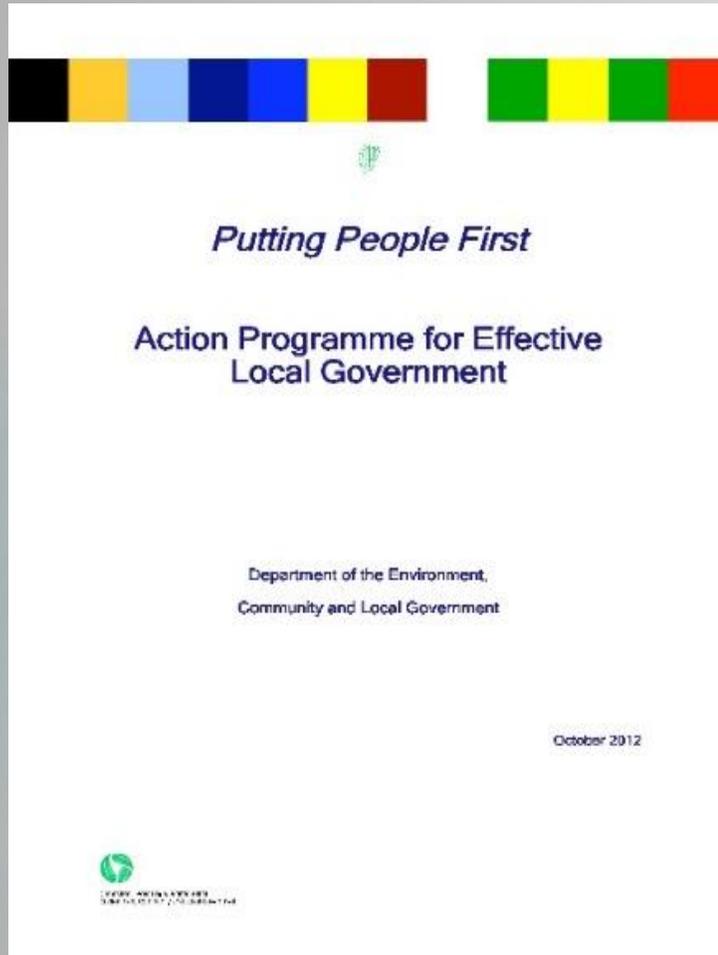
## Introduction to GCCN

**What are your priorities on the five areas outlined in the #EqualityVotesGalway Manifesto:**

- ▶ Social Inclusion, Local Development and Community Development
- ▶ Housing and Accommodation
- ▶ Recreation and Amenity
- ▶ Planning, Transport & Infrastructure
- ▶ Accountability and Transparency

**How do you intend to ensure accountability to the communities that GCCN represents?**

# Introduction to GCCN



- ▶ Local Government Reform Act 2014
- ▶ PPNs established in each local authority area to serve as the nominating structure for community voluntary interest on local authority structures
- ▶ The PPNs to work on agreed objectives based on 'promoting the wellbeing of this and future generations'

# Background

galway city  
**communit**y forum  
foram pobal chathair na gaillimhe



**Galway City Community Network**  
Lónra Pobail Chathair Na Gaillimhe

In 2014, Galway City Community Network was established as the Public Participation Network in Galway City:

- Publicity
- Public Meeting
- Open registration process
- Elections



**Official Launch May 2015**

# PPNs

- ▶ Facilitating participation and representation of communities in a fair and equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary sectors on decision making bodies;
- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate;
- ▶ Providing information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary sectors and acting as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

# GCCN

- ▶ GCCN in taking on this mandate espouses a vision of Galway as a creative and inclusive city that respects and values its people and communities, their wellbeing and quality of life, that will develop a vibrant and sustainable economy and environment, and participative and transparent governance.

# Values

- ▶ **Sustainability** - including valuing, preserving and protecting the natural environment.
- ▶ **Equality** - including working in a nondiscriminatory way, valuing and respecting diversity, empowering people, and securing people's access to social and economic resources.
- ▶ **Culture** - including valuing, empowering, and fostering the diversity of cultures in the city and enabling people to express their creativity.
- ▶ **Community** - involving the physical space, identity, and/or interests shared by a group, where people enjoy wellbeing and harmony, organise collectively, and engage in shared creativity.
- ▶ **Empowerment** - including representation and participation in decision-making and democracy in the city.
- ▶ **Inclusion** - involving fostering and ensuring a sense of belonging to and opportunities to engage with one's community and the city

## Practice Principles

▶ Collaboration

▶ Added value

▶ Participation

# What we do

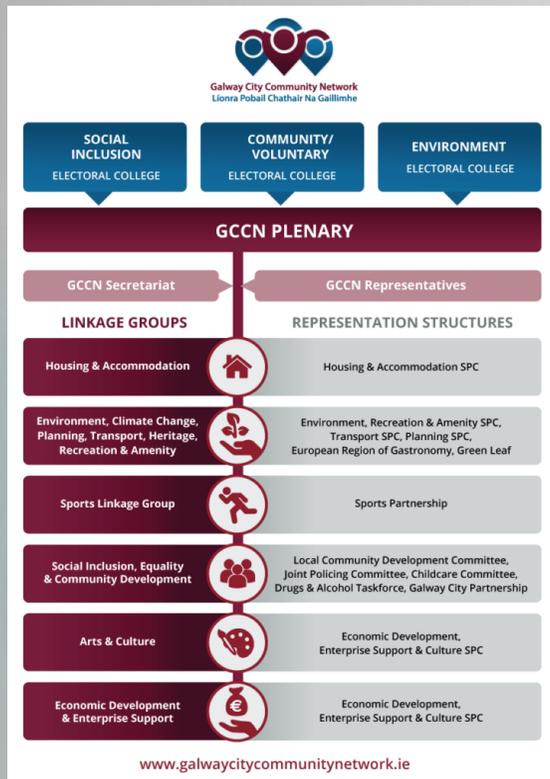
- ▶ Supporting representation
- ▶ Organising events/initiatives – including training
- ▶ Influencing policy – submissions
- ▶ Communication



# Supporting Representation

## Structures

## Representatives



- ▶ Local Community Development Committee
  - ▶ LCDC Social Inclusion Subgroup
  - ▶ Healthy Galway Subgroup
  - ▶ LECP Advisory Group
- ▶ Strategic Policy Committees:
  - ▶ Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC
  - ▶ Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC
  - ▶ Planning SPC
  - ▶ Housing SPC
  - ▶ Transportation SPC
- ▶ Joint Policing Committee
- ▶ Galway City & County Childcare Committee
- ▶ Regional Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce
- ▶ Comhairle na nÓg
- ▶ Galway City Partnership
- ▶ Secretariat

# Events/Initiatives



**Loving Galway**  
 Celebrating our Green and Blue Spaces  
 20-30th September 2018



**Healthy Galway**



**LCDC**  
 Equality and Human Rights Statement  
 A Tool to Support Implementation of the Public Sector Duty to have regard to the need to Eliminate Discrimination, Promote Equality of Opportunity and Protect Human Rights.

*Flowers for Magdalenes*  
 Remembering the Magdalene Women and Children of Galway




**From Immediate Need to Sustainable Solutions: Preventing Homelessness in Galway City**

A solutions-focused event bringing together the Community & Voluntary sectors with key statutory agencies and the Local Authority to explore innovative solutions to the prevention of homelessness in Galway City, now and into the future.



**Galway 2020 Gaillimh**




**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
 Department of Rural and Community Development

**STREET PERFORMANCE & BUSKING IN GALWAY**

Galway City Council are to introduce Byelaws to regulate Street Performance and Busking in Galway. Galway City Community Network will facilitate a meeting to ensure that Street Performers and Buskers:

- Are aware that the Byelaws are to be introduced
- Have an opportunity to have a say

**WHEN**  
 6pm on Tuesday April 18th 2017

**WHERE?**  
 The Galway2020 Hub, Cornstore, Galway

For further info or to register your interest in attending please email [info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie](mailto:info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie)



**Galway Environment Network**

A Workshop on Effective Civil Society Engagement with the Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty.

**ENGAGE FOR CHANGE**

# Submissions

- ▶ Galway City Development Plan
- ▶ New National Action Plan for Social Inclusion
- ▶ Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy

## **Most recent**

- ▶ National Strategy on Volunteering
- ▶ PPN Users Guide
- ▶ National Social Enterprise Policy
- ▶ GCCN Submission on Traveller Inclusion



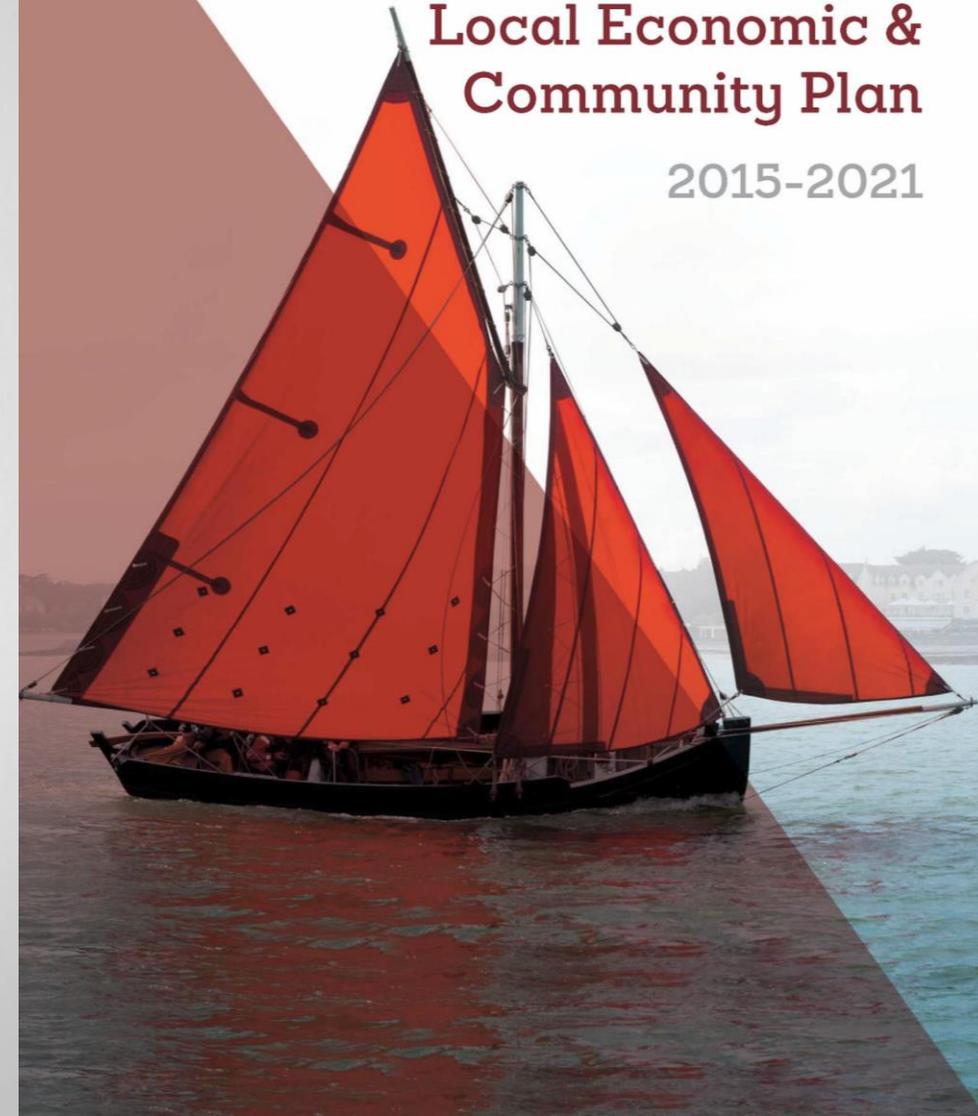
# Communication

Newsletter



# Local Economic & Community Plan - Implementation Plan

- ▶ Motion approved by the LCDC
- ▶ Proposal submitted to Galway City Council for the development of a new implementation plan based on robust consultation and needs analysis
- ▶ Tender
- ▶ Stalled
- ▶ Looking for support to ensure that it progresses



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# Meeting with Galway City Councillors



**What are your priorities on the five areas outlined in the #EqualityVotesGalway Manifesto:**

- ▶ Social Inclusion, Local Development and Community Development
- ▶ Housing and Accommodation
- ▶ Recreation and Amenity
- ▶ Planning, Transport & Infrastructure
- ▶ Accountability and Transparency

**How do you intend to ensure accountability to the communities that GCCN represents?**

# Accountability and Transparency

- ▶ The #EqualityVotesGalway Network believe in participatory democracy as complementary to representative democracy. We expect Galway City Councillors to:
- ▶ Familiarise yourself with GCCN's **Guidelines for Successful Community Engagement: Galway City Community Network Policy on Participation, Representation and Consultation** and support their implementation on an ongoing basis;
- ▶ Respect and support the contribution from the Community, Voluntary and Environmental sectors on the Local Community Development Committee, the Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee and the Galway Sports Partnership, including equal treatment for representatives;
- ▶ Commit to meetings with GCCN and the #EqualityVotesGalway Network twice a year to discuss progress on the commitments contained in this Manifesto.
- ▶ <https://galwaycitycommunitynetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/GCCN-Guidelines-for-Successful-Community-Engagement.pdf>

**See you in September  
at the next Plenary!**



## The GCCN Plenary

**The GCCN Plenary brings together the entire membership of the network four times a year. The Plenary meeting is the main decision making body of the network.**

The role of the Plenary is to:

- ▶ Agree the three year GCCN Strategy (2016-2019);
- ▶ Receive reports from the GCCN staff on the implementation of the strategy;
- ▶ Receive reports from GCCN's representatives on decision making structures in Galway City;
- ▶ Agree or amend GCCN policies & positions;
- ▶ Elect the members of the Secretariat;
- ▶ Ratify GCCN representatives to committees/boards who have been nominated by members through the appropriate Linkage Group;
- ▶ Consider motions from any GCCN member.